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# *The Ohio Archivist*

Autumn 2009, Volume 40 Number 2

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## **An Important Message**

... from our President appears on page 2 of this issue. It is regarding an open Council meeting that will take place on October 26th at 10:00 am at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio. At this meeting Council will consider and vote upon the proposed agreement between the Ohio Historical Society and SOA that was originally presented and discussed at our Spring 2009 business meeting. Council wants your input, so check out our President's message to see how you can participate.

This issue also contains a feature article by Stephanie Phillips and Glenn Longacre of *The National Archives at Chicago* on a new database of maritime-related federal court records that they have created. These records date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century to the recent past and include cases that relate to the inland waterways of the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

We're always looking for articles and news submissions for the newsletter, so if you've got a collection or exhibit you'd like to promote, write it up and send it to me at [kattelman.1@osu.edu](mailto:kattelman.1@osu.edu).

Happy Autumn!

--Beth A. Kattelman, editor

**Unfortunately, due to low registration  
the Autumn Workshop had to be cancelled.**

We do hope to have another opportunity to offer Mary Cannon's workshop on Volunteer Management in the future, as we know it will be informative and worthwhile.



## **President's Message**

For the last several years, the Ohio Historical Society has graciously provided ongoing support for SOA. The OHS has provided countless hours of staff time, hosted the SOA web site, provided meeting space, supported mailings, and performed countless other tasks that make SOA run smoothly. The recently proposed agreement between the SOA and the OHS would strengthen this ongoing relationship, and allow the OHS to be recognized for the support it provides to SOA.

Those of you who attended the spring 2009 business meeting will recall that there was a significant amount of discussion about the proposed agreement with the Ohio Historical Society. We also agreed to hold a special business meeting at the fall 2009 SOA workshop during which a revised copy of the agreement was to be discussed.

Unfortunately, registration for the fall workshop and/or business meeting was very low. Council decided to cancel both the Workshop and the meeting. The SOA Constitution requires 25 people for a quorum at a business meeting, and registration numbers did not come close to 25.

Council wants your input on the OHS agreement. (If you need a copy of the current agreement, please let me know.) In order to offer the membership another opportunity to provide that input, Council will be holding an open Council meeting on October 26th at 10am at OCLC in Dublin, Ohio. Council will vote on the agreement at that time.

We invite and encourage you to participate in this process in one of the following ways:

- 1) Email your questions, concerns, and comments about the attached agreement to a Council member (Council members are listed on the SOA web site: <http://www.ohioarchivists.org>.)
- 2) Attend the Council meeting in person on October 26, 2009. Please RSVP to me via phone or email if you will be attending.
- 3) Attend the Council meeting on October 26 via conference call. Please contact me for call information.

Finally, please keep an eye on the SOA listserv for upcoming information about the SOA web site and spring conference. And remember to send information about your Archives Month activities to the listserv.

-- Judy Cobb, President



## **2009 Spring Conference Recap**



## **2009 Spring Conference Committee**

Ron Davidson (Chair), Sandusky Library  
Kim Brownlee, University of Toledo  
Jillian Carney, Ohio Historical Society  
Kim Feiknopf-Dorian, formerly Ohio Historical Society  
Vic Fleischer, University of Akron  
Jacky Johnson, Miami University  
Emily Lockhart, University of Akron  
Glenn Longacre, NARA  
Kristin Rodgers, Medical Heritage Center, OSU  
Christine Engels, Cincinnati Museum Center

## **Sponsors**

Open Text, OPC, Special Libraries  
Association, and the Ohio Historical Society.





## **Plenary**

The Plenary Session this year featured Jill Hurst-Wahl speaking on how for-profit institutions are partnering with archives, museums and libraries to make digitized materials more widely available. In her talk, entitled “What we are learning from Google & Flickr about Digitization and Partnership,” she also addressed several questions that arise as a result of these partnerships, such as “What benefits are being realized from these efforts? What concerns are being raised? What are we learning about for-profit and not-for-profit partnerships?”

Jill Hurst-Wahl is president of Hurst Associates, Ltd. and a Professor of Practice in Syracuse University’s School of Information Studies. Jill has worked on digitization planning projects with several library consortia, as well as private (in-house) projects.

## **Session Listings**

Thursday, 9:30 – 10:45 a.m.

“Film Preservation, Nitrate Negatives”

**Lisa Wood** (Ohio Historical Society)

“Ohio Newspaper Digitization Project: Newspapers Like Never Before”

**Alex Beres, Eric W. Schnittke, and Angela O’Neal** (Ohio Historical Society)

Thursday, 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

“Ohio Heritage Partnership: A Statewide Preservation Initiative” Presenters: **Angela O’Neal** (Ohio Historical Society), **Jelain Chubb** (Ohio Historical Society), **Missy Lodge** (State Library of Ohio), **Jody Blankenship** (Ohio Association of Historical Societies and Museums)

“Desperately Seeking Teachers: Making Your Archives Attractive to K-12 Educators”

**Michelle Coleman, Aimee Crosby, Cassandra Daniels, Jennifer Plemel** (Columbus City Schools), **Susan Dietz** (Logan Hocking School District) Moderator: **Stacia Kuceyeski** (Ohio Historical Society)

“Bringing Local Archival Collections into the Digital Age: Using CONTENTdm to organize, describe, and provide access to archival collections”

**Elias Tzoc Caniz, Jenny Presnell** (Miami University), **Ken Grossi** (Oberlin College)



Thursday, 3:45 – 5:00 p.m.

“From Institution to Independence: A History of People with Disabilities in Northwest Ohio”

**Kim Brownlee** and **Arjun Sabharwal** (The Ward M. Canaday Center, University of Toledo)

“Advocating for Unique Collections at Wilmington College”

**Jim Boland**, **Charlotte Pack**, **Betsy Pratt** (Peace Resource Center) and **Patti Kingsinger**, **Lee Bowman** (Watson Library, Quaker Collection)

Friday, 9:30 – 10:45

“Improving Access to Three-Dimensional Collections”

**Elizabeth Nelson**, **Keith Manecke**, **Eric Buerk**, **Lynn Dotson**, **Rosie Meindl** (Ohio Historical Society)

“You Don’t Have to be Here: Improving Access to The Ohio State University Archives through Digital Projects”

**Michelle Drobik**, **Kevlin Haire**, **Laura Kissel**, **Jeff Thomas** (The Ohio State University)

Friday, 10:45 -- Noon

“A Friend Amongst You: The Plight of Researchers & Guest Curators”

**Carol A. Dickson** (University of Hawaii)

“Libraries Using Virtual Resources: Blogs, Wikis, Social Networking and Virtual Worlds.” (replacement for a cancelled session)

**Beth Kattelman** (The Ohio State University)

Friday, 1:45 – 3:00 p.m.

“The Changing Landscape of Reference Services: Cooperative Cross-Training and Evaluation”

**Louise Jones** (Ohio Historical Society), **Angela O’Neal** (Ohio Historical Society), **David Lincove** (The Ohio State University), **Linda Kachurek** (Wright State University)

“A Gracious Host: Cleveland Memory’s CONTENTdm Image Database and the Libraries that Share Remote Access”

**Meghan Hays** (Shaker Heights Public Library), **William C. Barrow** (Cleveland State University), **Rebecca Ranallo** (Cuyahoga County Public Library), **Deborah Rossman** (Westlake Porter Public Library)



## **SOA Honors Two Groups with Annual Merit Awards**

Each year Merit Awards are given to “individuals or organizations that have by excellence in deeds, actions, or initiatives improved the state of archives in Ohio over the past year.” This year, the recipients were:

### **The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation**

Since 2003, The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation (MCMF) has contributed \$2.5 million to support the Archives of the History of American Psychology (AHAP) at the University of Akron. The Foundation has provided stipends for the Archives to hire graduate students to arrange, describe and make accessible unprocessed manuscript collections involving the history of mental health research and practice. The Foundation also provided the Archives with funding for a web developer to maintain and update databases and the Archives website.

### **The OhioLINK EAD Task Force**

The EAD Task Force, composed of nine professionals from Ohio institutions and OhioLINK, collaborated to develop a viable and effective tool that greatly simplifies preparation of EAD documents across a multi-institutional environment. EAD Task Force members are:

Janet Carleton, Ohio University  
David Gaj, Kent State University  
Cara Gilgenbach (Chair), Kent State University  
Beth Kattelman, Ohio State University  
Amy McCrory, Ohio State University  
Rhonda Rhinehart, University of Akron  
Meg Spernoga, OhioLINK  
Toni Vanden Boos, Wright State University  
Sheila Yeh, OhioLINK



## **Election Results**

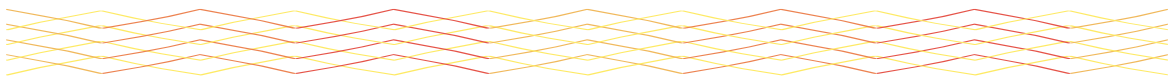
At the annual meeting of the SOA membership, the members elected the following individuals to serve as officers and council members for the Society of Ohio Archivists

**President:** Judy Cobb

**Vice-President:** Louise Jones

**Secretary:** Gillian Hill

**Council Members:** Christine Engels and Beth Kattelman



## **This Year's Student Educational Scholarships Winners**



**Sasha Westgate**  
(Kent State  
University)

**Jeremy Feador**  
(Wright State  
University)

The scholarships help to defray the cost of attending the SOA Spring Meeting.

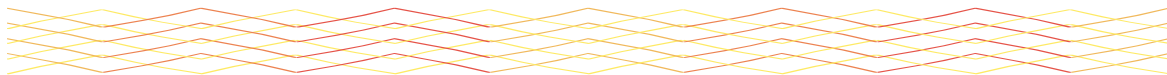


## **Amendment Passed**

At the annual meeting of the membership, the following amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws was passed

*Motions to be introduced by a member of the society at the annual meeting must be presented to the Chair in writing prior to discussion, and preferably should be presented to Council in writing prior to the date of the annual meeting, if possible*

The amendment is now inserted as the second paragraph of item 10.



## **Partnership with OHS—Proposed Pilot Project:**

At the annual meeting members engaged in a lengthy discussion of a partnership plan proposed by the Ohio Historical Society. For an annual fee and any actual out of pocket expenses, OHS would take over some of the purely routine administrative work of the SOA Council to enable council members to concentrate on the goals of the Society.

There were many unresolved issues, and questions raised, so no vote was taken on the partnership. Gillian Hill made a motion that the partnership proposal be turned over to the new SOA Council for further review and that an extra business meeting of the full membership be called for later in the year at which a fully fleshed out proposal could be considered.



## **Other News From Around the State**



### **Kent State University Libraries Appoint Read Graduate Assistant**

The Kent State University Libraries' Department of Special Collections and Archives is pleased to announce the appointment of Lae'l Hughes-Watkins as the 2009-2010 Dr. Gerald H. and Victoria C. T. Read Graduate Assistant. Ms. Hughes-Watkins started her graduate studies in the School of Library and Information Science this fall. She is a graduate of Youngstown State University, having earned a Bachelor of Arts in journalism and political science and a Master of Arts in English.

## **Other News From Around the State – cont'd**

### **Canaday Center Receives SAA's 2009 Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award**

The University of Toledo's Ward M. Canaday Center for Special Collections was the 2009 recipient of the Philip M. Hamer and Elizabeth Hamer Kegan Award given at SAA's annual meeting in Austin, Texas. The center was recognized for its exhibit and publication titled "From Institutions to Independence: A History of People with Disabilities in Northwest Ohio." Director Barbara Floyd accepted the award on behalf of the center during the awards ceremony.

The citation noted that the Canaday Center was being recognized for its outstanding efforts to promote the collections of its Regional Disability History Archive. In making its selection, the award committee noted the exhibit and catalog "sought to highlight a segment of society that has too often been omitted from the historical record. While the exhibit largely focused on institutions and groups from northwest Ohio, it sought to place the local experience within a national context to provide viewers with the larger picture of disability history." A virtual exhibit is available at: <http://homepages.utoledo.edu/ASabhar/DVX/index.html>.

For more information on this and other SAA awards, check the web site [www.archivists.org/recognition/austin2009-awards.asp](http://www.archivists.org/recognition/austin2009-awards.asp)



## **Other News From Around the State – cont'd**

### **Midwest Archives Conference Presidents' Award Recognizes Ohio Foundation**

The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation of Hudson, Ohio was one of the recipients of the MAC Presidents' Award given at the MAC meeting in St. Louis in May. One of the primary focus areas of the Foundation is supporting the mental health field. Since 2003, the Foundation has contributed \$2.5 million to support the Archives of the History of American Psychology [AHAP] (<http://www.uakron.edu/ahap>) at the University of Akron. The Foundation has provided stipends for the archives to hire graduate assistants to arrange, describe, and make available unprocessed manuscript collections involving the history of mental health research and practice. It also provided the archives with funding for a web developer to maintain and update databases and the AHAP website. Its grants to AHAP include funds to establish the Endowed Directorship for the Archives of the History of American Psychology. MAC's citation hailed the "partnership being forged by The Margaret Clark Morgan Foundation, The University of Akron and its Archives of the History of American Psychology" saying it will have "a profound and positive impact on the field of mental and behavioral health and will continue to benefit the field of psychology and the preservation of the history of the field." The MAC Presidents' Award recognizes "significant contributions to the archival profession by individuals, institutions, and organizations not directly involved in archival work but knowledgeable about its purpose and value."



## **The National Archives at Chicago Improves Access to the Buckeye States' Maritime History**

Stephanie Phillips  
Glenn Longacre

### ***The National Archives at Chicago***

Last Spring, archives staff at the National Archives at Chicago created a database for its maritime-related federal court records. The records, held in Record Group 21, Records of District Courts of the United States, date from the mid-19th Century to the recent past. The database will include federal court cases that primarily relate to the Great Lakes, but will also include those admiralty and other maritime-related cases that relate to the inland waterways to include the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers.

Staff members, along with archives intern, Stephanie Phillips, working on a MLIS at the University of Illinois, began the initial database population with admiralty case files from the U.S. District Court in Cleveland. The archives holds over 90 cubic feet of admiralty case files containing thousands of maritime cases heard between 1855 and 1966 in Cleveland's federal court. Upon its completion, the database will provide access for researchers to the largest body of federal maritime cases in the United States documenting the Great Lakes region.

The database compiles such case information as record group, court, case number, case title, type of case (admiralty, civil, criminal, or bankruptcy), case year, plaintiff, defendant, name of vessel, state, specific waterway if applicable, and any significant remarks.

Two of the more significant maritime-related cases heard by the U.S. District Court in Cleveland and destined for inclusion in the database include the 1965 collision and sinking on Lake Huron of the *SS Cedarville*, and the 1967 tragic northern Ohio skydiving disaster when 18 skydivers took off from Ortner Airfield near Oberlin and were accidentally dropped into Lake Erie. Sixteen of the parachutists tragically drowned in the accident.



In her early work on the database, Stephanie Phillips, has seen significant patterns and stories emerge from the records. U.S. Revenue Cutters, predecessors to the modern day Coast Guard vessels, patrolled the Great Lakes to enforce revenue laws and to provide assistance to vessels in distress as early as the 1820's. By 1857, growth in population and trade along the coasts of the Great Lakes led to an increased demand for additional revenue cutters, and six new cutters were commissioned in Cleveland. In an ironic twist, the construction of Revenue Cutters No. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 resulted in over ninety-six civil suits being filed for nonpayment of services.



2. Exhibit 2, Case File 128, Robert R. Fox & Others vs. Revenue Cutter No. 1; Admiralty Case Files; United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division (Cleveland); Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives and Records Administration--Great Lakes Region (Chicago).

In 1857, milliners Fox & Pohlemus filed suit against shipbuilders Merry & Gay of Milan, Ohio for the initial amount of \$825.50 due against "4,200 yards of Flax [sail] canvas as used in the Navy." Much to the chagrin of Merry & Gay as many as fifteen vendors came forward to lay claim to unpaid services following public notice of the case. The new claims were for non-payment of services rendered, encompassing both labor and supplies. Pending resolution of these numerous cases, all six of the government ships were seized by court authorities.

Cleveland's federal court admiralty case files offer a detailed glimpse into the processes and materials necessary for maritime vessel construction, as well as an understanding of the complex nature of long-distance business transactions in the mid-nineteenth century. Specifically, the Revenue Cutter cases are extensively documented with invoices, early examples of banking slips akin to contemporary personal checks, and an unusual amount of testimony ranging from that of the shipbuilders and crew, to the government-appointed Captain Pease, Superintendent, in charge of the construction process. Admiralty case files offer a plethora of information on a variety of other maritime events, including information pertaining to collisions and their aftermath, details regarding everyday life on ships such as invoices for crew supplies and foodstuffs, and issues surrounding wages for sailors and laborers.

While the early admiralty cases are still in their original tri-folded condition, some basic preservation work such as re-boxing in archives boxes is done. To date, information on nearly three hundred admiralty cases from the U.S. District Court in Cleveland, from 1855 through 1865, were entered into the database. Archivists in Chicago hope to complete Cleveland's admiralty case files in early 2010. Once the database is complete it will be made available to researchers through a variety of ways including the National Archives' Archival Research Catalog (ARC).

The National Archives at Chicago holds over 87,000 cubic feet of historically valuable records created by federal agencies in Ohio and five other Great Lakes states (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin). Our holdings for Ohio date from 1800 to the recent past.



Present John E. Carey Esq, for Plffs.  
H. F. Stone & E. Andrews for Deft

William C. Pease of lawful age, being duly sworn, deposes & says, that he is thirty nine years old, and ~~is~~ <sup>appointed</sup> a Captain in the U. S. Revenue service, and was <sup>appointed</sup> Superintendent of the construction of the U. S. Revenue Cutter built by Merry & Gay at Milan, <sup>Errie County, Ohio,</sup> by order of the Secretary of the Treasury. The construction of said schooner was commenced in December 1856 & finished in September 1857. I was the Superintendent of their construction during all this time. I resided at Milan Errie County Ohio while they were being constructed.

Question by Plffs Atty. Please examine Account made & A. and state whether the articles mentioned therein, were used in the construction of Revenue Cutter No One.

Answer. I have no hesitation in saying that they were all used in the construction of Cutter No One, except the two gangs of rigging, twenty five pieces of Russia cordage under date of ~~Dec~~ <sup>Nov</sup> 29<sup>th</sup>; 782 lbs Russia chronograph, under date of Jan. 30.

Question. Have you examined the cutter, with reference to being able to state definitely whether this is the fact?

Answer. Yes sir I have.

1. excerpt of Deposition of W. C. Pease, Case File 154, Fearing & Hinckley vs. Revenue Cutter No. 1; Admiralty Case Files; United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division (Cleveland); Records of District Courts of the United States, Record Group 21; National Archives and Records Administration--Great Lakes Region (Chicago).

To learn more about records that document the Buckeye State at the National Archives at Chicago, you can visit our web site at <http://www.archives.gov/great-lakes/>, send an e-mail to [chicago.archives@nara.gov](mailto:chicago.archives@nara.gov), or call us at 773-948-9001.



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# SOA Council

## Council Officers

### **President**

*2009-2011*

Judith Cobb

Product Manager, Digital Collections Services  
Online Computer Library Center (OCLC)

### **Vice President**

*2009-2011*

Louise Jones

Department Manager, Research Services  
Ohio Historical Society

### **Secretary**

*2009-2011*

Gillian Marsham Hill

Greene County Records Center and Archives

### **Treasurer**

*2008-2010*

Stephen H. Paschen

University Archivist  
Kent State University  
Special Collections & Archives

## Council Members

*2008-2010*

Kimberly Brownlee

Manuscripts Librarian and Assistant  
University Archivist

Ward M. Canaday Center for Special  
Collections

University of Toledo

*2009-2011*

Christine Schmid Engels

Assistant Archivist  
Cincinnati Museum Center

*2009-2011*

Beth Kattelman

Associate Curator

Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee Theatre  
Research Institute

The Ohio State University

*2008-2010*

Judith A. Wiener

Head Curator

Assistant Professor  
Medical Heritage Center  
The Ohio State University

## Ex-Officio

### **Editor, *The Ohio Archivist***

Beth Kattelman

Associate Curator

The Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee  
Theatre Research Institute

The Ohio State University

### **Past-President**

*2009-2011*

Angela O'Neal

Department Manager, Preservation and Access  
Services

Ohio Historical Society